

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

GRANDSTAFF

ROKOSCH



THOMPSON

CHILCOTT



DRISCOLL



PLETTENBERG (Clerk & Recorder)

Members Present.....Commissioner Carlotta
Grandstaff, Commissioner Jim Rokosch, Commissioner Alan Thompson, Commissioner
Greg Chilcott and Commissioner Kathleen Driscoll

Date.....January 22, 2008

Minutes: Beth Perkins

► The Board met with Planner Shaun Morrell for review and possible confirmation of CPC Core membership for countywide zoning. Present was Planning Director Karen Hughes.

Shaun gave an overview and presented a list to the Board of the selected CPC Core members for Corvallis, Darby, Hamilton, and Stevensville. He stated there were members selected for Lone Rock. He received several emails regarding second thoughts and objections to the selected core members, specifically the request to have two other members as a part of the core. The towns of Florence and Victor have not made selections. Commissioner Rokosch stated Lone Rock has some real interest to add members to bring balance. Concerns have been expressed and he recommends expansion.

Shaun stated there are some new people attending the meetings in Lone Rock. Commissioner Chilcott stated they have been very transparent in getting the information out to the public. There doesn't seem to be any respect for the process. Karen stated the Lone Rock CPC should acknowledge the core members and send the two others back. They have a lot of tough decisions coming up. There are going to be people coming back after the discussion with changed perspectives. It is setting Planning up for failure if they have people lobbying at the last minute. Commissioner Chilcott agreed. Commissioner Rokosch stated the core members should sign an agreement stating they are going to move forward and to participate and achieve zoning and not delay the process. Commissioner Grandstaff stated she had a discussion with a proposed core member who stated they will fight zoning every step of the way. It defeats the purpose entirely. Karen replied the Board has the right to approve the core members. If the Board believes there

is someone who will not honor the process and have true discussions, then it is up to the Board to decide to approve them as a core member or not.

Commissioner Rokosch stated there are some members of the Lone Rock CPC who commandeer the meeting. Commissioner Grandstaff stated as a core member, you have to commit to zoning. They cannot have individuals against the purpose. Karen replied from her perspective, if she attended the meetings, she would want to look at the entire message.

Commissioner Driscoll stated she attended a few meetings where they did the selections and she wanted to make sure they legitimized the process. Commissioner Chilcott stated the Board has to honor the process and the decisions made by the members.

Commissioner Grandstaff stated if the individuals who are against zoning are removed from the core, then the problem will still have to be dealt with further down the road. Commissioner Rokosch reviewed the emails received regarding the Lone Rock CPC. He stated if there is discussion about "11th hour" efforts to jump on board, there has to be a balance of consideration. There is the request for additional members for Lone Rock CPC core membership. He recommends taking the emails back to the CPC and have them review it again. Commissioner Chilcott stated the Board needs to honor the recommendations of the people who attend these meetings and respect the progress already made. Commissioner Driscoll stated the only issue is with Lone Rock CPC core membership. She suggested reviewing the others first and then returning to Lone Rock for consideration. Commissioner Thompson stated there weren't any objections to Lone Rock prior to the selection date and now there is objection. Where does the Board draw the line?

Commissioner Grandstaff requested public comment.

John Meakin from the Stevensville CPC stated after hearing comments today, he would like to voice his concerns. He stated most of the people whether satellite or core group are excited for zoning with the exception of one person. This individual has dominated the discussions and speaks off the agenda. This individual has given out incorrect information to the general public and has not demonstrated any interest on proceeding with the effort of zoning. His purpose is to 'throw sand in the gears'. He stated there isn't any regular attendance among the core members. The model they were given was a consensus model. The core group members are self-declared volunteers. There isn't any discussion of a vote. Commissioner Grandstaff questioned the signatures in support of the selections and how there weren't any documented objections. John replied at that time, yes. This individual took up an hour of the meeting and they did not see the sheet prior to the meeting. They need to be on board with the process and if not, they are not going to get very far. Commissioner Driscoll asked if people felt intimidated by this individual. John replied yes. Commissioner Grandstaff stated she has also felt threatened by this individual. Commissioner Thompson stated this is exactly what he had discussed when someone requests an individual be removed from the core membership. John replied this is an example of an individual who knows the system and is using it to their advantage. Commissioner Grandstaff stated this is not someone who just has a simple difference of

opinion. This person is disruptive and threatening. Commissioner Thompson stated having people on these committees with a difference of opinion is fine, but they should not be threatening.

Commissioner Rokosch questioned having the Planning Staff in the situation of being facilitators. He suggested having professional planning facilitators come in and work with the CPCs. He believes by having professionals there wouldn't be questions regarding the facilitation.

Commissioner Grandstaff stated there are two issues here. One issue with the Lone Rock core membership and the second issue being the disruptive and threatening individual on the core membership of Stevensville. If they can move past those issues and approve the others, it is a step forward.

Commissioner Chilcott stated the selections have been made by the members. Commissioner Driscoll stated the other side is to have someone chair the group. There are other parts of the process. How does the Board address it?

Karen replied this is something to ask the public process consultant. There are a number of tools they can use. The final decision was on the agenda ahead of the meeting for Stevensville. Staff could see there might be some potential friction. Commissioner Driscoll stated there is a need for a chair to keep order. Karen replied there is a need for time before they get into the hard decision making. They may need to give Stevensville more training and tools prior to decisions.

Commissioner Rokosch referred to the CPC Core rules and the Board's role for the process. It seems to him the concerns need to be brought to the core groups and have facilitation of those discussions and concerns. It needs to be in an environment where they feel safe. He stated the rules indicate exactly the role of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Rokosch suggested approving the list as presented but communicate back to the Lone Rock group of the emails received. Commissioner Grandstaff asked about Stevensville. Commissioner Rokosch replied there needs to be communication of restructuring the core membership. Commissioner Chilcott requested clarification. To his understanding, there is no problem within the Board approving Corvallis, Darby and Hamilton CPC core memberships. There should be correspondence to Lone Rock and Stevensville regarding the objections. Commissioner Grandstaff replied yes that is correct.

Commissioner Rokosch made a motion to continue until 1:30 p.m. Commissioner Driscoll seconded the motion, all voted 'aye'.

► The Board met to discuss the Mental Health Crisis in Ravalli County. Present were County Attorney George Corn, Sheriff Chris Hoffman, Attorney Deputy Karen Mahar,

Civil Council Alex Beal, Under Sheriff Kevin McConnell and several members of the community.

Sheriff Hoffman gave an overview of the mental health issues. He presented a break down of time spent guarding mental health patients at Marcus Daly waiting evaluation between December and January. He included the number of roundtrips to Warm Springs. He had based the numbers on the starting wage of a deputy and the cost of gas mileage totaling almost \$40,000. This service is limiting the deputies' availability and the numbers are staggering. They have seen increases steadily over the years and need to include it in the Sheriff's budget. There is no way to predict the number of patients to be transported. Commissioner Rokosch requested to see the data to back up the operating and funding scenario. Sheriff Hoffman stated he will get the information to Commissioner Rokosch. He added they have gone back five years with the data.

Sheriff Hoffman stated the bottom line is they are in a situation with their budget for the impacts in the terms of having to drop active cases and getting the paperwork done to commit an individual.

Commissioner Driscoll stated she is well versed in mental health issues and she believes the data can be supported by individuals present here today. She would like to know why the stats are going up. Kim Miller replied stats are going up and there are no funding sources. Crisis stabilization is only three beds and the patients have to be stable enough to not require a guard. Commissioner Rokosch stated the Crisis Center might address the number of trips and time to Warm Springs. Kim replied there are a lot of times people are placed in Room #301 or Warm Springs that can go to the Crisis Center. It will affect some of it, but not the ones who are unstable or violent. There is a 72 hour window of eligibility. She does think it will make an impact, but it will not address the violent patients.

Commissioner Driscoll stated she has seen these people working in the community and with this economy, those people are now in crisis. Sheriff Hoffman asked Kim if people who are in the Crisis Center decide to leave against recommendation, what will happen. Kim replied she does not have a protocol available yet but she would imagine they would contact 9-1-1.

County Attorney George Corn stated what happens is a request for commitment from either a hospital or an emergency room physician. The request comes to the County Attorney's office and goes into a petition for detention in the least restrictive environment. There will be an initial hearing and usually more detention with a trip to Warm Springs. He further described the process and the hours to the Sheriff's Office. State law is unclear if someone comes down to the hospital and states they have ingested pills or poison and a doctor contacts the Sheriff's Office resulting in a trip to Warm Springs. It is all county money and it is open ended. Commissioner Driscoll stated Alex is taking over the mental commitments. She asked if there is an amount affecting the County Attorney's office. George replied the impacts are not tabulated for the County Attorney's office.

Karen stated they have had many meetings regarding the burdens to the community with the increasing cases. One increase is drug and alcohol abuse with mental illness. Most cases are repeat patients. They come in for treatment and then are released only to come back again. Sheriff Hoffman stated the issue is one more brick in the wall with the safety of the community and the safety of the deputies. The Sheriff's Office is understaffed. George Corn stated there are a couple of positions lost within the Sheriff's Office. There needs to be staff with expertise in mental health and drug addiction.

Emery Towns stated in the last year they have lost several positions. The State has decreased funding. In the past, the region was allowed to overspend CBDG funding. Last year, they did not have that option. The legislature did a good job to address these issues. The movement is the need of community services and allotment of \$400,000 out of the state general fund. As an outpatient provider, there is an 8 week gap to get into the door. There will be more accessibility in the future to address those impacts. They are working with Kim Miller for detoxifying services and are still in the process of coordinating with the hospital. George stated with the statewide demand, they are at the county level? Down here, they do not get a lot with the block grant for relief. This is where the legislature comes in. Commissioner Rokosch stated the biggest increase is the repetitive patients. Who are they released to and where is the follow up on those patients? Emery replied there is follow up, but there is a gap for those people. They are an outpatient clinic. They cannot force people to come in. If they are out in the streets, they are going to go through withdrawal stages and be in unsafe environments. They have to be admitted for a period of time to develop the skills to be functional on the outside. They still need additional funding. Sheriff Hoffman stated folks like these are the ones ending up in the hospital and then the Sheriff's Office is called to provide a deputy. He stated they do not have a choice but to provide a deputy. Commissioner Grandstaff asked if these people are not in custody then why is a deputy being dispatched. Sheriff Hoffman replied because he doesn't want to lose Room 301.

Senator Jim Shockley stated he understands the law differently. He believes the County Attorney and Sheriff should not have to provide services to those individuals not in custody. He gave an example of a situation where it could be applicable. George replied there are several cases similar to the situation. Emery stated it is an issue of mental health; committed crimes being addressed with the state statutes. Jim replied if the deputy has to shoot the individual, it should be the county's responsibility. Unless they are in custody, it is not the county's responsibility. Commissioner Grandstaff stated if we do not provide a guard, the hospital will not provide the room. George gave further case examples.

Senator Rick Liable stated they are here because there is a financial crisis in the Sheriff's Office. As legislators they have a responsibility to the community. These people are not in custody but may be a threat to the community, themselves and their families. The State is recognizing this and they are supportive. They need to get some local control over mental health, particularly in having more local facilities. He also noted this is not the first year they had to have a budget for these expenses. Commissioner Chilcott replied the

State and the Feds budget a certain amount of money, then it is the county's responsibility to pick up the tab. This is the way the system is set up. Senator Liable stated in the last two sessions, the State has picked up the court expenses and in the last session they have picked up the public defenders expense. By the time they get their small amount, they do not have enough. Commissioner Chilcott replied there are a lot of costs the local tax payer is picking up. The question is where they come up with the money for these service requirements.

Commissioner Driscoll stated they have been looking at this for a long time. They have to be aware of what is going on here and how to put money into place for it. The facilities they do have in the community costs less than the State. They have a lot of veterans in the area as well as soldiers coming back from Iraq. They have to look at it, figure out how to fund it and then move forward. Commissioner Rokosch stated they have recognized growth has affected the increased demand on services. They need a fiscal impact model to address those impacts. A lot of hospitals do have security staff but Sheriff's services will always be requested. The Board did have a policy that has obviously broken down since it no longer works. The Board cannot ignore the fact our population is growing and they need to increase taxes to fund these needs.

Senator Bob Bergren stated he did hear from Sheriff Hoffman about some mental health patients that were in custody that required two roundtrips to Warm Springs. There are costs the County is forced to bear. Commissioner Grandstaff stated she would like to hear from John Bartos (Administrator of Marcus Daly Hospital) regarding individuals in custody.

John Bartos stated the hospital has always tried to share its responsibility for mental health in Ravalli County. They do not call the Sheriff's Office for guards for voluntary patients. The only time they call the Sheriff's Office is for involuntary patients. They can not hold an individual in Room #301 legally. They have to have the Sheriff's Office hold the individual. He understands the frustration the Sheriff has and they are in the same boat. Do they need a facility in Ravalli County to deal with the Mental Health issues? He does not know, but there needs to be discussion about that issue. Commissioner Driscoll asked John how much a bed cost per day. John replied about \$1,000 per day. Commissioner Driscoll stated if there was a facility it would save \$1,000 per day.

Commissioner Chilcott asked Emery where the eight new facilities are to be built. Emery replied Boulder, Rim Rock, Great Falls, Bozeman, and Miles City. Commissioner Chilcott asked how many of the new facilities provide care for the issues now. Sheriff Hoffman stated the local patients would fill those beds first. Commissioner Chilcott asked if this is going to be State or locally funded. Emery replied they are State funded. Commissioner Chilcott stated he believes the local individuals would utilize those beds on a State level.

Mark Jergins stated they do not have security issues at the hospital unless a patient is a threat to them from mental illness or drug addiction. That is when the Sheriff's Office is

asked to provide a guard to detain people. The hospital is providing the service. They are asking the responsible individual to provide detainment when necessary.

Senator Jim Shockley stated he is not unhappy with what Marcus Daly is providing. At some point, they cannot keep looking at the county for funding. He does not know if there is going to be a constituency for this. Rick Liabe stated he does sit on the health and human services committee. There is a request for an outside review on this very issue. There are more federal dollars available, but it is a long process to get those dollars released. This is not unique to this county. All counties are facing this problem. He disagrees with Commissioner Rokosch. This problem is not just the result of growth. They have an increase in drug and alcohol addiction. Maybe there is some money in someone's budget. Commissioner Grandstaff replied there isn't any money in the budget. Commissioner Rokosch stated an option is to put a mill levy out to the voters.

John stated the State hospital is at maximum capacity. They need a community hospital. He stated he will work within his committee to go to the legislature for funding in order to get 'over the hump' but they need some help right now.

Senator Jim Shockley stated he agrees with Commissioner Rokosch but he does not know if a mill levy can pass. Commissioner Rokosch stated he will do everything he can to address the growth component. He will work to get a good analysis for the increase in demand.

George stated he wants to make it clear that people in Ravalli County being treated for mental health are being treated with dignity. The revenues have not kept pace with the times. He further stated DHS has a lot of responsibilities but does not expand to the County for mental health. If the County is going to treat them, it should not depend on the County's budget. This should be the State's responsibility. Commissioner Driscoll stated some of them have been in the war zone for mental health. 1 in 5 people have mental illness. Part of it is growth and part is awareness.

Jim Mason from Western Montana Addiction Services stated in concept, providing more community based services is a necessity. They do not have an emergency response facility. They have a small amount of money available for those services. The people need to come home to some kind of facility. George asked where that funding comes from. Jim replied the money comes from the State to provide services to Ravalli County and contract with Detention Center. There is a statewide problem. George asked if the funding comes from DPHHS. Jim replied yes.

Deputy County Attorney Karen Mahar stated the issues have been very well covered here today. One point of clarification is that video conference is allowable. Those conferences can only happen if the client agrees. Right now, the system has clarified what can or cannot be allowed. She is not sure what can be done, but folks that speak on the state level can be informed to speak up for funds when they come available. Some services are critical and there is a crisis with the services for the Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Chilcott stated he is unsure how to delegate authority with an RFP for outside sources. Sheriff Hoffman replied the outside sources would have to be deputized. He stated there is an individual who is an arsonist and cannot be released in the community. This individual has created chaos in the detention center. The Sheriff's Office has provided transportation and this individual had medical attention for his arm. That expense will tap out the medical expense line for his budget. He does not know what to do.

Commissioner Rokosch questioned programs to reduce the number of dependencies. He asked if it is happening at the State level too. Senator Rick Liable replied the State had put money into these programs.

Commissioner Driscoll asked about short term programs in the county. George replied there is no funding for any short term programs. They are not seeing the money on a local level from the State funding.

Emery stated there is a model being facilitated at the federal level for the misdemeanor level. It does not address the issues of more aggressive individuals. There are no treatment dollars for the ones going through mental health court. They could question how DPHS divides the block grant money for the huge demand on the treatment level. The last time he inquired about the money, he was told it was already over spent. This is the first time for general funds for a community project. The State is looking at building infrastructures. People are falling through the cracks and there is always a wait list.

Senator Jim Shockley stated he will work with Senator Rick Liable and Karen Mahar to carry a bill to address these issues.

Commissioner Thompson stated this is a crisis not specific to Ravalli County or the State of Montana. The problem is they have recognized more mental health issues and the money does not come down to the County. He received an email this morning that the State is reducing funding for PILT in the amount of \$894,000. The County then becomes the ugly stepchild with the allocation of what is left over. He does not know what the County can do since they are already shuffling funds.

Commissioner Grandstaff stated they will need to revive a public safety mill levy at some point in time.

► The Board met for a continuance of review and possible confirmation of CPC Core membership for countywide zoning from earlier this morning.

Commissioner Chilcott stated his vision of zoning is different than other individual. They are looking for an open and honest discussion and want to move forward. Commissioner Driscoll stated sometimes people need to know the rules. It is not an insult to anyone, just a confirmation of being on the same page to move forward. Different people take in information in different ways.

Commissioner Rokosch asked if the CPCs' had a consensus to follow the ground rules. Shaun replied there has not been an actual motion, but there is a consensus. Commissioner Grandstaff asked for Karen and Shaun's opinion of signing a statement. Karen replied it depends on the details of the statement. Shaun stated his opinion is to have consensus to move forward with zoning prior to signing an agreement.

Gene Williams asked about intimidation in the prior discussion. His concept of intimidation is to the point of attacking physically and in that case, it would be an assault. Commissioner Grandstaff replied with the individual in question, she did contact the Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Rokosch stated he had time to think about the previous suggestion to help facilitate the CPCs moving forward. It does not allow certain individuals to participate in moving forward. The intent in spending time on the ground rules was geared towards following the process. They have to ensure the groups are in an environment where they can get an honest outcome. Maybe a statement is not going to accomplish anything, but it does implement a tool for commitment. Commissioner Chilcott suggested instead of having them sign a statement, have the Board give a statement such as a deadline of when the Board will adopt zoning on November 6th.

Commissioner Grandstaff stated it lacks the psychological aspect of having to sign their name to a document. Commissioner Chilcott stated an analogy of where a person swears an oath on the bible but there is no guarantee they won't lie on the witness stand. Commissioner Grandstaff replied it is a bad analogy and does not fit for this instance. Commissioner Rokosch stated if a member operates in disregard to the ground rules, then they are subject to removal. Karen stated she likes the idea of signing an agreement. She discussed the communications process. There are some people ready to start mapping forgoing the process of communication. Yes, there are boring little details, but it is better to have a total consensus. She would feel more comfortable having something in writing for the core members. Commissioner Rokosch stated he would rather have the core members sign an agreement to follow the ground rules and support the process.

Commissioner Driscoll stated there are 5 different ways people take in information. This would address 3 of those ways. They are going to get into a place where people would get into a combative argument.

Commissioner Rokosch made a motion to accept the core groups as suggested with the request to sign the ground rules document. Commissioner Chilcott seconded the motion, all voted 'aye'.

Commissioner Chilcott suggested instead of the Board getting involved with communication, let the coordinators bring up the issues to be put on the table. Karen replied it is easier to have an actual document to back up the conversation. Shaun replied they could make it an agenda item at the next meeting.

Karen stated Commissioner Rokosch brought up having a professional facilitator at the meetings. She stated they do have a facilitator as an option, but cannot have one for each

meeting. They have Staff already playing multiple roles and are at a maximum. There isn't money to have a facilitator at every meeting. Clarion will supplement the ability to do public process, but it is planning carrying the shells on their backs for the process.

Shaun stated he will keep it on a local level and go back to the Lone Rock CPC with the suggestions from the Board. If they decide to open the discussion back up for the core member selection, then they will have to submit the changes in writing to the Board for approval.

Planner Tristan Riddell stated he would like the Stevensville CPC core members to stay as they are and see how they progress.

The Board agreed with Shaun and Tristan. Meeting adjourned.